



**The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces
Between The Lines: The Writing Experience
University of Iowa
June 22 – July 8, 2013**

Between the Lines is a two-week cultural exchange program designed to host 12 writers ages 16 to 19 from Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The University of Iowa at Iowa City will host the program, serving as inspiration for the students to grow as writers and providing them with the opportunity to explore cross-cultural dialogues on creative writing and literature. The program is fully sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. State Department. These young writers will be immersed in the premier creative writing culture of the United States as part of an exchange that will broaden and sharpen their writing skills, deepen their understanding of American society, and build bridges with young American writers who will participate in creative writing classes alongside the ECA-sponsored writers. Program activities will include writing workshops in both English and Arabic, seminars on literary topics, cultural visits, and other local events along with a trip to Chicago. At the culmination of the program, the students' writings (in both English and Arabic) will be collected into a printed booklet to be used for educational purposes.

At the end of the two weeks in Iowa City, students will spend two days touring the cultural and literary highlights of Chicago. Participants will travel to and from the United States in the company of two adult chaperones. Students will live in a residence hall and be supervised by live-in, trained counselors. The chaperones and counselors will work together to help create a lively, supportive writing community.

Student Eligibility:

- Age 16, 17, 18, or 19 as of June 22, 2013
- Able to demonstrate proficiency in English (reading, writing, and speaking)
- Able to engage and thrive in an atmosphere that brings together different kinds of people and views
- Talented, curious, enthusiastic young writers of fiction and/or poetry

Student application requirements: All nominees must supply the following:

- 6-8 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction ONLY) in Arabic.
- 6-8 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction ONLY) in English.
- 2-5 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction ONLY) , in either language (Arabic or English), in response to one (1) of the following writing prompts:
 1. *A person comes home and sees that someone new is moving into the apartment next to him/her. In the hallway is a giant cage with a colorful bird that talks, an open box full of shiny black shoes, and a strange machine the person has never seen before. The new neighbor's door is open – what happens?*

2. *Write a story or poem inspired by the following statement: "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it."*
- A statement of purpose (250 words maximum, in English) describing why creative writing is important to her/him and their life, and what he/she hopes to learn at our program in Iowa.
 - The writing samples, writing prompt response, and statement of purpose should all be attached to the email.
 - All writing samples must be sent in 12-point font and have one -inch margins all around.

Chaperone application requirements:

- Serve as Arabic-speaking liaisons between the students and the IWP staff. Chaperones will also work with IWP on BTL-related projects.
- Chaperones should be between the ages of 25-40 as of June 22, 2013.
- Proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking).
- Teacher from the students' school who is interested in creative writing and has not had previous exposure to the United States.
- Fully participate in a formal English language program on creative writing teaching methods that will also include American teachers.
- Reliable, mature, and willing and able to take on the dual responsibilities of their own program and the overall duties of overseeing the students.
- Each nominee must submit a resume/CV and a brief statement of purpose (both in English) describing his or her goals for the program and how his or her participation will benefit the program.

Deadline and inquiries:

Please submit all program materials no later than **March 7st, 2013**

For further information, please visit the official U.S. Consulate website:

http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/educational_exchange.html;
<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/iwp.html>

Please submit a completed and signed application electronically to exchanges@state.gov (West Bank and Jerusalem) or GazaExchanges@gmail.com (Gaza).

Inquiries:

Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants: Email marroummv@state.gov; call 02-622-7172, or (0545) 420 953 for more information.

Gaza Applicants: Email GazaExchanges@gmail.com; call 08-286-4623, or 059-967-7317 for more information.